

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1           1.     A method comprising:  
2                 responsive to a platform error at a local node of a platform, performing error  
3     recovery at a processor abstraction layer (PAL);  
4                 if the platform error is not resolved at the PAL,  
5                     determining if there is a peer node with an available network interface card  
6                 (NIC), and if there is a peer node with an available NIC,  
7                     sending a media access control (MAC) address of the local node to  
8                 the peer node so that the peer node can handle operations for the local node,  
9                 and  
10                 disabling the MAC address of the local node, and  
11                 performing error recovery at a system abstraction layer (SAL);  
12                 if the platform error is resolved by the SAL,  
13                     enabling the local node with the MAC address of the local  
14                 node, the local node to resume normal operation.
- 1           2.     The method of claim 1, wherein if the SAL does not resolve the platform  
2     error, further comprising:  
3                 performing error recovery at the operating system (OS) level; and  
4                 if the platform error is resolved at the OS level,  
5                     enabling the local node with the MAC address of the local node, the  
6                 local node to resume normal operation.
- 1           3.     The method of claim 2, wherein if the platform error is not resolved at the  
2     OS level, further comprising:  
3                 resetting the local node; and  
4                     after re-booting the local node, obtaining state information from the  
5     operating system.

1           4.       The method of claim 3, further comprising enabling the local node with the  
2   MAC address of the local node, the local node to resume normal operation.

1           5.       The method of claim 4, further comprising:  
2       extracting an error log; and  
3       generating an event log.

1           6.       The method of claim 1, wherein the local node is a first server blade and the  
2   peer node is a second server blade.

1           7.       The method of claim 1, wherein the peer node utilizes a back-up NIC as the  
2   available NIC.

1           8.       A machine-readable medium having stored thereon instructions, which  
2   when executed by a machine, cause the machine to perform the following operations  
3   comprising:  
4       responsive to a platform error at a local node of a platform, performing error  
5   recovery at a processor abstraction layer (PAL);  
6       if the platform error is not resolved at the PAL,  
7       determining if there is a peer node with an available network interface card  
8   (NIC), and if there is a peer node with an available NIC,  
9       sending a media access control (MAC) address of the local node to  
10   the peer node so that the peer node can handle operations for the local node,  
11   and  
12       disabling the MAC address of the local node, and  
13       performing error recovery at a system abstraction layer (SAL);  
14       if the platform error is resolved by the SAL,  
15       enabling the local node with the MAC address of the local  
16   node, the local node to resume normal operation.

1           9.       The machine-readable medium of claim 8, wherein if the SAL does not  
2 resolve the platform error, further comprising:  
3           performing error recovery at the operating system (OS) level; and  
4           if the platform error is resolved at the OS level,  
5                    enabling the local node with the MAC address of the local node, the  
6           local node to resume normal operation.

1           10.     The machine-readable medium of claim 9, wherein if the platform error is  
2 not resolved at the OS level, further comprising:  
3           resetting the local node; and  
4           after re-booting the local node, obtaining state information from the  
5 operating system.

1           11.     The machine-readable medium of claim 10, further comprising enabling the  
2 local node with the MAC address of the local node, the local node to resume normal  
3 operation.

1           12.     The machine-readable medium of claim 11, further comprising:  
2           extracting an error log; and  
3           generating an event log.

1           13.     The machine-readable medium of claim 8, wherein the local node is a first  
2 server blade and the peer node is a second server blade.

1           14.     The machine-readable medium of claim 8, wherein the peer node utilizes a  
2 back-up NIC as the available NIC.

1           15.     A server blade comprising:  
2           a processor;  
3           a memory coupled to the processor; and

4 a network interface card (NIC) coupled to the processor to provide for network  
5 communications to a peer server blade;  
6 wherein responsive to a platform error at the server blade, error recovery is  
7 performed at a processor abstraction layer (PAL) and if the platform error is not  
8 resolved at the PAL, a media access control (MAC) address of the server blade is  
9 sent to the peer server blade so that the peer server blade can handle operations for  
10 the server blade, and the MAC address of the server blade is disabled.

1 16. The server blade of claim 15, wherein error recovery is further performed at  
2 a system abstraction layer (SAL) and if the platform error is resolved by the SAL, the  
3 server blade is enabled with the MAC address of the server blade, and the server blade  
4 resumes normal operation.

1 17. The server blade of claim 16, wherein if the SAL does not resolve the  
2 platform error, error recovery is performed at an operating system (OS) level, and if the  
3 platform error is resolved at the OS level, the server blade is enabled with the MAC  
4 address of the server blade, and the server blade resumes normal operation.

1 18. The server blade of claim 17, wherein if the platform error is not resolved at  
2 the OS level, the server blade is reset and after re-booting the server blade, state  
3 information is obtained from the operating system.

1 19. The server blade of claim 18, wherein the server blade is enabled with the  
2 MAC address of the server blade and the server blade resumes normal operation.

1 20. The server blade of claim 19, wherein an error log is extracted, an event log  
2 is generated, and the server blade resumes normal operation.

1 21. The server blade of claim 15, wherein the peer server blade utilizes a back-  
2 up NIC to handle operations for the server blade.

1 22. A server platform comprising:  
2 a server blade rack;

3           a local server blade coupled to the server blade rack, the local server blade  
4   operating in conjunction with firmware; and

5           a peer server blade coupled to the server blade rack, the peer server blade operating  
6   in conjunction with firmware;

7           wherein responsive to a platform error at the local server blade, error  
8   recovery is performed at a processor abstraction layer (PAL) and if the platform  
9   error is not resolved at the PAL, a media access control (MAC) address of the local  
10   server blade is sent to the peer server blade so that the peer server blade can handle  
11   operations for the local server blade and the MAC address of the local server blade  
12   is disabled.

1           23.    The server platform of claim 22, wherein error recovery is further  
2   performed at a system abstraction layer (SAL) and if the platform error is resolved by the  
3   SAL, the local server blade is enabled with the MAC address of the local server blade, the  
4   local server blade to resume normal operation.

1           24.    The server platform of claim 23, wherein if the SAL does not resolve the  
2   platform error, error recovery is performed at an operating system (OS) level, and if the  
3   platform error is resolved at the OS level, the local server blade is enabled with the MAC  
4   address of the local server blade, and the local server blade resumes normal operation.

1           25.    The server platform of claim 24, wherein if the platform error is not  
2   resolved at the OS level, the local server blade is reset and after re-booting the local server  
3   blade, state information is obtained from the operating system.  
4

1           26.    The server platform of claim 25, wherein the local server blade is enabled  
2   with the MAC address of the local server blade, and the local server blade resumes normal  
3   operation.

1           27.    The server platform of claim 26, wherein an error log is extracted and an  
2   event log is generated.

- 1           28.    The server platform of claim 22, wherein the peer server blade utilizes a
- 2   back-up NIC to handle operations for the server blade.